Proposed Guiding Principles for "statement"

A. **High Level Concept:** We remove "Advisory", "Special Weather Statement (SPS)" and "NOWcast (NOW)" products, and replace them all with a single new, VTEC-enabled "statement". The purpose of this is to streamline (and greatly reduce confusion associated with) NWS' current, three-headline hazard messaging system.

   1) Our new hazard messaging system has only two flagship headline terms (Watch and Warning). We only "raise the flag" for events that require users to "Prepare" (Watch) or "Act" (Warning) for significant events that threaten life and/or property.

   2) We use the new "statement" to convey information for lower-level hazardous events that are not expected to reach the "Watch" or "Warning" levels.

B. **Defining Statement Usage: How It Should Be Applied**

   1) Statements are used for imminent/occurring hazards not forecast to reach Warning level, in other words in all cases where "Advisory" was previously used.

   2) Statements are used in most cases where "SPS" was previously used. For instance:

       a. Imminent/occurring hazards _not reaching_ current "Advisory" level.

       b. Expected events at the 1- to 3-day timeframe not expected to rise to the Warning level, but that could still be impactful.

C. **Defining Statement Usage: How It Should NOT Be Applied**

   1) Statements are **_not_** to be used to provide long term outlooks beyond the "Watch" timeframe. Alternatives include:

       a. Convey information via HWO, IDSS, and/or social media (could require re-establishing HWO at WFOs where it has been discontinued).

       b. Consider employing the ".O" VTEC significance code to be used only when Warning-level conditions are possible beyond the "Watch" timeframe.

2) Statements are not to be used to restate the existence of any other products that have already been issued.

3) Statements are not to be used to update Warnings. (A sub-team is formulating the concept for updating short-fuse Warnings under the Warning PIL rather than under a Statement.)

4) Statements are not to be used within a Warning to highlight short-duration significant events (e.g., a heavy band of snow that does not rise to Snow Squall Warning level).

5) Statements are not to be used to announce tornado or other drills.

D. **VTEC Rules Governing Statement Usage**

1) All statements have VTEC (SPS, NOW, MWS currently do not). The significance code will always be ".S" and the phenomenon code will correspond to the appropriate hazard (e.g. a statement describing gusty winds would be "WI.S").

2) All statements (".S") use *only* the following Action codes: NEW, CON, EXT, EXA, EXB, CAN, EXP.

   a. The new "statement" falls outside of the Watch and Warning VTEC upgrade structure. This means that, unlike current Advisories, Statements may not use the Action code "UPG".

   Philosophy: "UPG" only applies to changes in hazard certainty in the new system; that is, it may only be used for changing the hazard state from Watch to Warning. This is based on the key premise of the new system, which is that Watch and Warning are the only flagship headline terms used. Statement is not meant to be a third term that can interact with the other two.

   b. If a statement needs to be cancelled because it is being changed to a Warning (e.g., there will be more snow than originally expected), forecasters are still to use the "CAN" action code. However, the cancellation is done "silently" from a headline language perspective, meaning there would be no cancellation headline and no alerts/notifications sent out. This would make clear that the expectation of impacts has actually increased, not ended.

   Example: A Winter Weather Statement (WW.S) is issued for a snow event that is not reaching Warning criteria. The event

intensifies and the storm is now reaching Warning criteria. The WW.S would be cancelled and a Warning would be issued. There would NOT, however, be a cancellation headline as it is used today:

...Winter Storm Warning in effect until 11 PM this evening…
...Winter Weather Statement is cancelled...

Instead, the text product would only show the Warning headline with the body of the message (e.g. What bullet) explaining the new situation:

...Winter Storm Warning in effect until 11 PM this evening...

* WHAT… 4-6 inches of snow now expected

3) If a statement-level event needs to be cancelled before its expiration time, forecasters are to use the "CAN" action code. This will result in a headline message that describes the ending of the event in plain language.

Example: A Wind Statement (WI.S) is currently out for gusty winds, but the threat has diminished prior to the expiration time of the statement. The WI.S would be cancelled and a cancellation headline WOULD go out:

...Gusty winds have diminished...

E. **Statement PIL Structure and MND Header**

1) The statement follows the same PIL structure as the Watch, Warning, and current Advisory. For instance, a Statement focused on a snow event falls under the WSW PIL.

2) The statement uses the MND header "(Hazard) Statement." The header is specific to the PIL it falls under (e.g. WSW PIL: Winter Weather Statement, NPW PIL: Weather Statement).

Note: In some cases, further discussion will be required as to which PIL the new statement will fall under. For instance, the current Significant Weather Advisory could transition to the SVR or SVS PIL. These details will be ironed out during requirements development.

F. **Statement Format**

1) The statement uses the "What, Where, When, Impacts" bulleted format.

2)   The statement includes the "Preparedness/Precautionary Actions" section.

3)   The statement uses a plain language headline and will **not** begin with "The NWS has issued a statement for…". Again, a key premise of the new system is that a statement is NOT a third headline term to be used alongside Watches and Warnings.

Example: In the current system, a Dense Fog Advisory may be issued ahead of a foggy morning. As shown below, the Statement headline would be in plain language without the use of a "term" (e.g. Dense Fog Advisory).

Current Headline: ...Dense Fog Advisory in effect until 9 AM EDT this morning…

New Headline: ...Dense fog expected until 9 AM EDT this morning...